

Kenneth W. Pitcher

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
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Summary of qualifications

BA in Biology and MS in Zoology
36 Years of Professional Experience as a wildlife biologist in Alaska
Numerous Technical Publications
31 Years Wildlife Research
26 Years Marine Mammal Research
5 Years Experience in Management and Supervision

Education

*BA Biology, Pepperdine University - 1966
MS Zoology, Idaho State University - 1968*

Professional experience

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation

1970-72 Entry Level Biologist.
1972-80 Marine Mammals Research Biologist
1981-1989 Marine Mammals and Caribou Research Biologist
1990-91 Management Coordinator for Southcentral Alaska Region
1992-95 Regional Supervisor for Southcentral Alaska Region
1996-98 Marine Mammals Research Biologist
1998-2000: Leader, Steller Sea Lion Research
2000-present: Steller Sea Lion Research Biologist

Scientific Committees and Teams

2001-2006 Steller Sea Lion Recovery Team
2002-2006 Scientific and Statistical Committee of North Pacific Fisheries Management Council
2006 to present Southwest Alaska Sea Otter Recovery Team

Scientific publications and major reports

- Pitcher, K. W.** 1975. Distribution and abundance of sea otters, Steller sea lions and harbor seals in Prince William Sound, Alaska. Alaska Dept. Fish and Game Report. 31pp.
- Pitcher, K. W.** 1979. Biology of the harbor seal, *Phoca vitulina richardsi*, in the Gulf of Alaska. Final Report Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program. 72pp.
- Pitcher, K. W.** 1980. Food of the harbor seal, *Phoca vitulina richardsi*, in the Gulf of Alaska. Fishery Bulletin 78: 544-549.
- Pitcher, K. W.** 1980. Stomach contents and feces as indicators of harbor seal, *Phoca vitulina*, foods in the Gulf of Alaska. Fishery Bulletin 78: 797-798.
- Pitcher, K. W.** 1981. Movements and haulout behavior of radio-tagged harbor seals, *Phoca vitulina*. Canadian Field Naturalist 95: 292-297.
- Pitcher, K. W.** 1981. Prey of the Steller sea lion, *Eumetopias jubatus*, in the Gulf of Alaska. Fishery Bulletin 79: 467-472.
- Pitcher, K. W.** 1981. Reproductive biology of Steller sea lions in the Gulf of Alaska. J. Mamm. 62:599-605.
- Pitcher, K. W.** and F. H. Fay. 1982. Feeding by Steller sea lions on harbor seals. The Murrelet Summer 1982 70-71.
- Calkins, D. G. and **K. W. Pitcher**. 1982. Population assessment, ecology and trophic relationships of Steller sea lions in the Gulf of Alaska. Final Report Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program. 129pp.
- Pitcher, K. W.** 1986. Variation in blubber thickness of harbor seals in southern Alaska. J. Wildl. Manage. 50:463-466.
- Pitcher, K. W.** 1987. Susitna Hydroelectric Project Final Report, Big Game Studies, Vol. IV Caribou. Alaska Dept. Fish and Game 59pp.
- Lieb, J. W., **K. W. Pitcher** and R. W. Tobey. 1988. Optimum population size for the Nelchina caribou herd? Proceedings of the 3rd N. Amer. Caribou Workshop. pages 135-145 in ADF&G Wildlife Tech. Bull. No.8
- Pitcher, K. W.** 1989. Studies of southeastern Alaska sea otter populations: distribution, abundance, structure, range expansion, and potential conflicts with shellfisheries. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game Final Report.24pp.
- Pitcher, K. W.** 1990. Major decline in number of harbor seals, *Phoca vitulina richardsi*, on Tugidak Island, Gulf of Alaska. Marine Mammal Science 6:121-134.
- Pitcher, K. W.** and K. K. Immura. 1990. Impacts of sea otter predation on dungeness crab abundance in the Cross Sound-Icy Strait Area, southeastern Alaska. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game Final Report.18.pp .
- Pitcher, K. W.** et al. 1990. Causes of low calf recruitment in the southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd and recent herd history. Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game Final Report.22pp.
- Eberhardt, L. L. and **K. W. Pitcher**. 1992. A further analysis of the Nelchina caribou and wolf data. Wildl. Society Bull. 20:385-395.
- Lowry, L. F., K. J. Frost and **K. W. Pitcher**. 1994. Observations of oiling of harbor seals in Prince William Sound. pages 209-225.in Marine Mammals and the Exxon Valdez. T.R. Loughlin ed. Academic Press.
- Calkins, D. C., E. F. Becker and **K. W. Pitcher**. 1998. Reduced body size of Steller sea lions from a declining population in the Gulf of Alaska. Marine Mammal Science 14: 232-244.

- Pitcher, K. W.**, D. C. Calkins and G. W. Pendleton. 1998. Reproductive performances of female Steller sea lions from the Gulf of Alaska: an energetics based reproductive strategy. Canadian Journal of Zoology 76:2075-2083.
- Calkins, D. G., D. C. McAllister, G. W. Pendleton and **K. W. Pitcher**. 1999. Steller sea lion status and trend in Southeast Alaska. Marine Mammal Science 15:462-467.
- Miller, E. H., **K. W. Pitcher** and T. R. Loughlin. 2000. Bacular size, growth, and allometry in the largest extant otariid, the Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*). Journal of Mammalogy 81:134-144.
- Pitcher, K. W.**, D. G. Calkins, and G. W. Pendleton. 2000. Steller sea lion body condition indices. Marine Mammal Science. 16:427-436.
- Snyder, G. M., **K. W. Pitcher**, W. L. Perryman, and M. S. Lynn. 2001. Counting Steller sea lion pups in Alaska: an evaluation of medium-format, color, aerial photography. Marine Mammal Science. 17:136-146.
- Pitcher, K. W.**, V. D. Burkanov, D. G. Calkins, B. J. Le Boeuf, E. G. Mamaev, R. L. Merrick, and G. W. Pendleton. 2001. Spatial and temporal variation in timing of births of Steller sea lions. Journal of Mammalogy. 82:1047-1053.
- Sease, J. L., W. P. Taylor, T. R. Loughlin and **K. W. Pitcher**. 2001. Aerial and land-based surveys of Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) in Alaska, June and July 1999 and 2000. U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-AFSC-122. 52 pp.
- Raum-Suryan, K. L., **K. W. Pitcher**, D. G. Calkins, J. L. Sease, and T. R. Loughlin. 2002. Dispersal, rookery fidelity, and metapopulation structure of Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) in an increasing and decreasing population in Alaska. Marine Mammal Science 18:746-764.
- Pitcher, K. W.** 2002. Nutritional limitation? an alternative hypothesis. In *Steller Sea Lion Decline? Is It Food II* (ed. D. DeMaster and S. Atkinson), pp. 15-18. University of Sea Grant, AK-SG-02-02, Fairbanks.
- Beckmen, K. B., L. K. Duffy, X. Zhang, and **K. W. Pitcher**. 2002. Mercury concentrations in the fur of Steller sea lions and northern fur seals from Alaska. Marine Pollution Bulletin. 44: 1130-1135.
- Small, R. J., G. W. Pendleton, and **K. W. Pitcher**. 2003. Trends in abundance of Alaska harbor seals, 1983-2001. Marine Mammal Science 19:344-362.
- Raum-Suryan, K. L., M. J. Rehberg, G. W. Pendleton, **K. W. Pitcher**, and T. S. Gelatt. 2004. Development of dispersal, movement patterns, and haulout use by pup and juvenile Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) in Alaska. Marine Mammal Science 20:823-850
- Maniscalo, J. M., K. Wynne, **K. W. Pitcher**, M. B. Hanson, S. R. Melin, and S. Atkinson. 2004. The occurrence of California sea lions, (*Zalophus californianus*) in Alaska. Aquatic Mammals. 30:427-433.
- Raum-Suryan, K. , **K. W. Pitcher**, and R. Lamy. 2004. Sea otter, *Enhydra lutris*, sightings off Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia, 1972-2002. The Canadian-Field-Naturalist 118:270-272.
- Pitcher, K. W.**, M. J. Rehberg, G. W. Pendleton, K. L. Raum-Suryan, T. S. Gelatt, U. G. Swain, and M. F. Sigler. 2005. Ontogeny of dive performance in pup and juvenile Steller sea lions in Alaska. Canadian Journal of Zoology. 83:1214-1231.
- Bownen, L., B. Aldridge, K. Beckmen, T. Gelatt, L. Rea, K. Burek, **K. W. Pitcher**, and J. Stott. 2006. Differential Expression of immune response genes in Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*): an indicator of ecosystem health? EcoHealth 3:109-113.
- Pendleton, G. W., **K. W. Pitcher**, L. W. Fritz, A. E. York, K. L. Raum-Suryan, T. R. Loughlin, D. G. Calkins, K. K. Hastings, and T. S. Gelatt. 2006. Survival of Steller sea lions in

- Alaska: a comparison of increasing and decreasing populations. Canadian Journal of Zoology.84:1163-1172.
- Pitcher, K. W.**, P. F. Olesiuk, R. F. Brown, M. S. Lowry, S. J. Jeffries, J. L. Sease, W. L. Perryman, C. E. Stinchcomb, and L. L. Lowry. In press. Status and trend in abundance and distribution of the eastern Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) population. Fishery Bulletin.
- King, J. C., T. S. Gelatt, G. W. Pendleton, **K. W. Pitcher**. In press. A field-based method for estimating age in free-ranging Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*) less than twenty four months of age. Marine Mammal Science.
- O'Corry-Crowe, G., B. L. Taylor, T. Gelatt, T. R. Loughlin, J. Bickham, M. Basterretche, **K. Pitcher**, and D. P. DeMaster. in press. Demographic independence along ecosystem boundaries in Steller sea lions revealed by mtDNA analysis: implications for management of an endangered species. Canadian Journal of Zoology.
- Beck, C. A., L. D. Rea, S. J. Iverson, J. M. Kennish, **K. W. Pitcher**, and B. S. Fadely. in press. Blubber fatty acid profiles reveal regional, seasonal, age-class and sex differences in the diet of young Steller sea lions in Alaska. Marine Ecology Progress Series.

Specialized training

Scuba diving certifications: open water, master scuba diver, dry suit diver, dive supervision, divemaster, scuba rescue diver, advanced scuba rescue diver, technical cave diver, introduction to scientific diving, advanced EANx diver, EANx overhead environment diver, EANx gas blender, Drager dolphin rebreather diver, high pressure cylinder handler

Red Cross first aid, remote first aid, survival medicine, Red Cross CPR, oxygen first aid, sea survival, field survival